



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

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May 2, 2005

The Honorable Jim Weiers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2240: county employees; exempt status

Dear Speaker Weiers:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2240, which would have allowed county attorneys to remove deputy county attorneys from the county employee merit system.

Although I am sympathetic to complaints that the county employee merit system can be cumbersome and inefficient, wholesale statutory exemptions from the merit system are not the answer, and House Bill 2240 is not necessary to achieve reform in this area. Some counties have already developed new compensation systems that encourage deputy county attorneys to voluntarily opt out of the merit system through economic incentives. These counties have done so without new legislation. To the extent legislative changes may be necessary, they should be focused on making the merit system more efficient.

House Bill 2240 does not accomplish this, and for these and other reasons, it should not become law.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Ken Bennett
The Honorable Eddie Farnsworth